

SELFIDGE FIELD, BUILDING NO. 152
(RPR Squadron Operations Building)
(The Treehouse)
(Pilots' Playpen)
S. of Wilbur Wright Boulevard,
E. of Taxiway A
Mt. Clemens vicinity
Macomb County
Michigan

HAER No. MI-116-E

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
National Park Service
Great Lakes Systems Office
Department of the Interior
1709 Jackson Street
Omaha, NE 68102-2571

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HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

SELFRIDGE FIELD
BUILDING #152
(RPR SQUADRON OPERATIONS BUILDING)
(The Treehouse) (Pilots' Playpen)

HAER No. MI-116-E

Location: South of Wilbur Wright Boulevard east of Taxiway A
Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mt. Clemens vicinity,
Macomb County, Michigan
U.S.G.S. Mount Clemens East Quadrangle, Universal Transverse
Mercator Coordinates: 17.350230.4718730

Significance: This is one of the few surviving buildings incorporated into the
base during its World War II expansion and has been directly
associated with flight operations at the base.

Description: This building is a rectangular plan, 30 foot by 39 feet 11 inch,
two-story, concrete block structure now sheathed in vinyl siding
and shielded by a low pitch roof confined by parapeted walls on
the north, east and south elevations. The three-bay-wide principal
(east) elevation is defined by symmetrical fenestration on the
second story and a projecting shed roofed entry vestibule flanked
by a fixed pane picture window to the south and a vinyl sash
window to the north. The north elevation is four bays wide as
defined by two vinyl sash windows, a projecting shed roofed entry
vestibule and a steel corner pedestrian entry door. The piercing
pattern of this elevation appears to have been altered by
subsequent renovations. The west elevation is three bays wide
but its character is defined primarily by a large wolmanized wood
deck extending across the entire second story. Three vinyl sash
windows occur on the first floor while a sliding glass door flanked
by glass block windows open onto the deck. The south elevation
currently consists of two bays defined by functionally positioned
sash windows, and is affected by an external stair leading up to
the west elevation deck.

The first floor plan was divided into a 14 foot by 18 foot
ground/air operations room, a 12 by 20 foot GCA Operators
Ready Room, a 12 foot 6 inch by 18 foot GCA Test Room, a 13
by 15 foot GCA Stock Room and a smaller store room and boiler
room. The second floor was divided into six office rooms and a
latrine. All rooms had oak floors and plaster walls. Renovations
in 1962 and 1980 executed according to plans completed by
Pircher and Jarratt of Ferndale, Michigan, for the Air Force Air
Defense Command converted the first floor into a single large 28

foot by 29 foot day room, with a rank of rooms identified as the Heater Room, Gun Room and Latrine occupying the remainder of the floor along the west wall. The second floor plan was revised though movement of partition walls creating four offices, a latrine and a classroom along the south wall. A portion of the second floor was renovated to serve as a Fuels Lab in 1980. Today the first floor plan remains unchanged while the eastern portions of the second floor consists of a lounge and the western portion is taken up by a bathroom and kitchen facility. All operations related elements have been removed from the building.

History: This building was built between 1920 and 1940 just outside the original Selfridge base perimeter on Joy Road. This building is believed to have served as a restaurant and was enveloped by base expansion during World War II. It functioned as a Squadron Operations Building, and a Fuels Lab before becoming a pilots exercise and recreational facility that continues in service today.

Sources: Anonymous, Brief History of Selfridge Air Force Base, 1917-1960, unpublished ms., Air Force Historical Research Agency, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, 1960.

Nigro, Louis, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, An Unofficial History, unpublished ms., Public Information Office, Selfridge ANG Base, Michigan, 1977.

Selfridge Field News, "Expansion to Make Selfridge Large Air Base," 13 August, 1942.

Interview, Captain Michael Geiger, 107th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Selfridge ANG Base, April 18, 1996.

Interview, Colonel Robert Stone (Ret.), Curator, Selfridge Base Museum, October 13, 1995.

Interview, Eric Reeve, Selfridge Environmental Management, October 12, 1995.

Historian: William E. Rutter, Midwest Environmental Consultants, May, 1996